Please cancel Claims 6, 13, 14 and 16 to 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 1, 7, 10 and 15, and add new Claims 26 to 35 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus for receiving data from a host device and forming an image, comprising:

a storage unit for storing a set value;

a transmitting unit for transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, in response to a request from the host device; and

an updating unit for receiving print data from the host device and then updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, based upon print data received from the host device.

2. (Original) An image forming apparatus for receiving data from a host device and forming an image, comprising:

a storage unit for storing a set value; and

a notifying unit for deciding a set value of the image forming apparatus in response to an image formation request from the host device, comparing the set value decided and the set value that has been stored in said storage unit, processing the image formation request if the two set values agree and, if the two set values do not agree, notifying the host device of this fact.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set value that has been stored in said storage unit includes size or type or both size and type of a sheet-like medium on which an image is formed.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image forming unit for forming an image by an ink-jet method;

wherein the set value that has been stored in said storage unit includes a setting of distance between an ink-jet printhead and a sheet.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a panel for displaying messages and specifying inputs;

a determination unit for determining whether data received from the host device includes a confirmation command; and

a confirmation unit for displaying a message on said panel and prompting an input in response to this message if said determination unit has determined that the data includes a confirmation command;

wherein an image is formed based upon the data if an input in response to the message is made by said confirmation unit.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An image forming system in which an image forming apparatus and an information processing apparatus are connected, wherein said image forming apparatus comprises:

a storage unit for storing a set value of said image forming apparatus;

a transmitting unit for transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, in response to a request from said information processing apparatus; and

an updating unit for receiving print data from the host device and then updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, based upon print data received from said information processing apparatus; and

said information processing apparatus comprises:

an acquisition unit for acquiring a set value from said image forming apparatus; and

a comparison unit for comparing a specified set value in image formation and the set value that has been acquired by said acquisition unit, transmitting an image formation request to said image forming apparatus if the two set values agree and, if the two set values do not agree, displaying this fact by a display.

8. (Original) An image forming system comprising the image forming apparatus set forth in claim 2, and an information processing apparatus, which is connected to said image forming apparatus, for receiving notification from said image forming apparatus and displaying it on a display.

9. (Original) An image forming system in which a latest set value that has been stored in a printer is acquired and, if the set value differs from a set value that has been specified, this fact is reported.

10. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus that receives data from a host device and forms an image, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing a set value of the apparatus in a storage unit;

a transmitting step of transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, in response to a request from the host device; and

an updating step of receiving print data from the host device and then updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage unit, based upon print data received from the host device.

11. (Original) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus that receives data from a host device and forms an image, said method comprising:

a storage step of storing a set value of the apparatus in a storage unit; and

a notifying step of deciding a set value of the image forming apparatus in response to an image formation request from the host device, comparing the set value decided and the set value that has been stored in said storage unit, processing the image formation request if the two set values agree and, if the two set values do not agree, notifying the host device of this fact.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

a determination step of determining whether data received from the host device includes a confirmation command; and

a confirmation step of displaying a message on a panel, which is for displaying messages and specifying inputs, and prompting an input in response to the message if it is determined at said determination step that the data includes a confirmation command;

wherein an image is formed based upon the data if an input in response to the message is made at said confirmation step.

13. and 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable computer program product storing a program for controlling an image forming apparatus that forms an image, said program comprising:

code of a storage step of storing a set value of the apparatus in storage means;

code of a transmitting step of transmitting the set value, which has been stored in said storage means, in response to a request from a host device; and

code of an updating step of receiving print data from the host device and then updating the set value, which has been stored in said storage means, based upon print data received from the host device.

16. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A printing method performed by an information processing apparatus connected to a printer that records a setting based upon received print data, said method comprising:

an acquiring step of acquiring a previous setting previously utilized from the printer;

a comparing step of comparing a current setting of print data to be transmitted and the previous set value acquired in said acquiring step;

an alerting step of, when the previous setting is not identical with the current setting, alerting a user; and

a transmitting step of, when the previous setting is identical with the current setting, transmitting print data to the printer.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising a determining step of determining whether the previous user and the current user of the printer are the same,

wherein, if it is determined that the previous user and the current user of the printer are not the same, the previous setting is acquired from the printer in said acquiring step, else the print data is transmitted to the printer in said transmitting step.

28. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the setting includes information representing the position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever.

29. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the settings include a media type.

30. (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising a adding step of, if the previous setting is identical with the current setting, adding a confirmation print OFF command to the print data, else adding a confirmation print ON command to the print data,

wherein, when the printer receives the confirmation print ON command, the printer starts printing after a confirmation is input, when the printer receives the confirmation print OFF command, the printer starts printing without a confirmation.

31. (New) An information processing apparatus connected to a printer that records a setting based upon received print data, comprising:

an acquiring unit that acquires a previous setting previously utilized from the printer;

a comparing unit that compares a current setting of print data to be transmitted and the previous set value acquired by said acquiring step;

an alerting unit that, when the previous setting is not identical with the current setting, alerts a user; and

a transmitting unit that, when the previous setting is identical with the current setting, transmits print data to the printer.

32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a determining unit that determines whether the previous user and the current user of the printer are the same,

wherein, if it is determined that the previous user and the current user of the printer are not the same, the previous setting is acquired from the printer by said acquiring unit, else the print data is transmitted to the printer by said transmitting unit.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the setting includes information representing the position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the settings include a media type.

35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a adding unit that, if the previous setting is identical with the current setting, adds a confirmation print OFF command to the print data, else adds a confirmation print ON command to the print data,

wherein, when the printer receives the confirmation print ON command, the printer starts printing after a confirmation is input, when the printer receives the confirmation print OFF command, the printer starts printing without a confirmation.